

(b) whether area of Sal Wood is gradually dwindling due to felling of trees;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have taken any special measures to take up plantation of Sal Wood plantation in the new areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) According to the State of Forest Report, 1993, the total forest cover of the country as per 1993 assessment is 6,40,107 sq. km. However, the specie-wise assessment of the forest area is not undertaken by the Forest Survey of India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Diesel Loco Shed

2107. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railway Board is contemplating on the scheme of constructing Diesel Loco Shed in Barauni Garhara; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Train Services in Gujarat

2108. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether rail facilities are lacking in Gujarat especially in its tribal areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government propose to reintroduce Ankleshwar-Rajipla, Kaishamba-Umarpada, Chota-Udaipur-Baroda train services in these areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed for improving train services in the tribal areas of the State during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The rail kms in Gujarat per lakh of population is 12.89 as compared to all India average of 7.41 kms.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Improvements/introduction of train services including in tribal areas is a continuous process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility and resources availability. Additional train services proposed in Gujarat are as follows :

After Gauge Conversion of the Delhi-Ahmedabad route, BG services will be provided on Ahmedabad-Jaipur-Delhi and Ahmedabad-Jodhpur-Bikaner sections. Other facilities include (i) Anand-Godhra MEMU service, (ii) Ahmedabad-Mehasana-Abu Road DMU/Push Pull service, (iii) Mehasana-Taranga Hill Rail bus service (iv) Increase in frequency of 6045/6046 Madras-Ahmedabad Navjeevan Express from six days a week to daily and 8403/8404 Puri-Ahmedabad from weekly to tri-weekly

Electrification of Bhagalpur-Kiul Rail Line

2109. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme for electrification of Bhagalpur-Kiul Rail line is under consideration of the Government.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the electrification work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Fish Farmers Development Agencies

2110. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether fish farmers development agencies in Assam are not working properly particularly in the Southern Assam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether about thirty five thousands families of fishermen in Southern Assam are facing acute problem of earning because of gradual dwindling of the catches; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to improve upon the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) 23 Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) including those of Southern Assam in the districts of Cachar, Karimganj, and Hailakandi are functioning properly, as reported by the Government of Assam.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) There is no report of dwindling of fish catch in the State and no fishermen's family is found to be facing acute problem of earning. In fact fish production has gone up from 151.646 metric tonnes in 1993-94 to 153.209 metric tonnes in 1994-95 and 155.065 metric tonnes in 1995-96.

(d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Stoppage at Bayana

2111. SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation to provide stoppage of Paschim Express at Bayana (Rajasthan); and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Examined but no found justified.

[English]

Derailement of Gorakhpur-Hatia Express

2112. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gorakhpur-Hatia Express, (5078 Dn.) derailed on May 20, 1996 at Dumari-Juara Halt, wherein thirteen compartments were slipped away from the track;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry was conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the defaulters; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The accident is being enquired into by a committee of officers, and the report of enquiry committee is awaited.

[Translation]

Security to Former Ministers/MPs

2113. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of former Ministers/MPs provided with security arrangements by the Government at their residences;

(b) the monthly expenditure being incurred on this;

(c) whether the security is being withdrawn from them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether they would be required to contribute half of the expenditure being incurred on their security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) At present, 61 ex-Ministers/ex-MPs are being provided security by the Government.

(b) The monthly expenditure being incurred on their security by Delhi Police is about Rs. 17 lakhs per month.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) and (e). A review of the security of ex-Ministers/ex-MPs was made in June, 96 and the security wherever considered necessary has already been withdrawn. A review of security is done from time to time.

(f) No, Sir.

Hazardous Incidents

2114. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of hazardous incidents increased due to the increase in the chemical industries in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the recurrence of these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) As per information made available by the Chief Inspector of Factories, National Capital Territory of Delhi, no increasing trend is discernable in respect of major incidents in the last three years in chemical industries in Delhi.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps required for prevention of accidents due to the handling of hazardous chemicals have been